## 

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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4



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2006 CHANGE OF COMMAND Pg. 12-13



Post Deployment Picnic Pg. 15



KIDS PT DAY PG.17

## Focus on FOUR

Volume 5, Issue 4 (Summer 2006)



#### OOH-RAH NMCB FOUR Change of Command

#### **Contents**

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12-13
14
15
16
17
18-21



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"On The Cover"

CDR. Steve Hamer relieves CDR John Korka as Commanding Officer of NMCB FOUR.

> EOCS Armstrong Retires

FSG Pool Party

Post Deployment Picnic

Kids PT Day

Cover by MC2 (AW/SW)
Ronald Gutridge

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CDR Steve Hamer CEC, USN

Executive Officer

LCDR Bill Whitmire CEC, USN

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BUC (SCW) Rolando Daquioag

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Greetings to the members, families and friends of NMCB FOUR! I'm sure that you all are aware by now that I'm the new CO of FOUR. I became Skipper of this great command on July 7th and I have been tremendously impressed from day one. I'd like to commend my predecessor, CDR John Korka, for the fantastic job he did as CO of this battalion. His superb leadership of FOUR over the past two years has truly put this battalion among the best ever in the history of the NCF and I'm very proud for the opportunity to carry on that tradition.

During my time here, I intend to focus the battalion on the following: 1) Mission Accomplishment; 2) Minimizing Safety Risks; 3) Quality in Everything; 4) Taking Care of Families; 5) Courage, Integrity, Loyalty and Respect; 6) Personal Responsibility; 7) Self-Improvement; 8) Navy and Seabee Traditions and 9) Enthusiasm.

I'd like to congratulate all of you for such a successful 2006 deployment. The presence of NMCB FOUR personnel spanned

the entire globe as (in addition to the main body site in Okinawa) the battalion deployed personnel to Iraq, Pakistan, Thailand, San Clemente Island, Camp Pendleton, mainland Japan, Korea, The Philippines, and Diego Garcia. We executed projects ranging from Rapid Runway Repair during exercises in Korea to road repair for disaster recovery in Pakistan to detainee operations in Iraq. So, all in all, the battalion successfully completed a very challenging and very diverse deployment that once again demonstrated the incredible skill and "Can Do" spirit of NMCB FOUR Seabees.

Upon returning to homeport, our battalion had the pleasure of showing off its best with our participation in the annual Seabee Days, followed two weeks later by our change of command, which was followed one week later by the 31<sup>st</sup> Seabee Readiness Group's change of command. The troops looked great for all those events and really showed our pride and professionalism.

In mid-July we had a superb welcome home picnic which I know many of you attended. This was a great event. I really enjoyed meeting the spouses and children of the battalion. This was also our opportunity to publicly thank the wonderful NMCB FOUR Family Support Team (FST) for their tireless support to the battalion during the deployment. We also handed out several "Kiddie SCWs" pins at the picnic for all the young ones who participated in Family Support Group (FSG) events during the deployment. The Okinawa deployment Ombudsmen, Tammy Heinrich & Jennifer Lampman, and Family Support Group President, Shelly Danforth, really did a superb job. We can't say enough about their great work. Speaking of the FSG, the current FSG is off to a great start with it new homeport organization. Anyone who's interested in joining our impressive FSG should contact our Homeport Liaison, BUC Daquioag, at rolando.daquioag@navy.mil.

Now we're heavily into our technical training phase of homeport with lots of classes every day of the work week. The classes are geared toward enhancing our construction capabilities. Several weeks from now we will move into the military training phase of homeport where we will rigorously train and develop our military skills culminating with a battalion Field Exercise in December. No doubt this will be a very challenging homeport but one that will make us totally prepared and confident in ourselves for future missions.

Once again, NMCB FOUR is a great command and I'm very proud to be the new Skipper. We're very excited about the upcoming months of our homeport and eager to continue the outstanding tradition of excellence that this battalion has. Many thanks to all of you for your outstanding dedication and support. OOH-RAH FOUR!!

The Seabees of Fabulous FOUR are home at last after an absolutely fantastic Okinawa deployment, and what a great feeling it is! May was one of our busiest months, wrapping up tasking, getting ready for turnover at our deployment sites and packing up our stuff for the big move back to Port Hueneme, but it was well worth the work. Seeing the looks in troops' and families' eyes when we got off those planes was truly heartwarming. The feeling you get from reunion after six months of separation is one that's hard to understand if you've never experienced it...kind of like Christmas, a first date and the Rose Bowl Parade all rolled into one. After some well-deserved time off, folks look refreshed, recharged and eager to get back after it.



Homeport is in full swing now, with parades and changes of command out of the way, classes started and FEX planning going strong. Speaking of changes of command, as you can see in the Commanding Officer's article, we have a new Skipper. Commander Steve Hamer comes to us from San Diego with his wife Angella and two children, Sydney and James. I've known CDR Hamer for about three years now, and I can honestly say that you won't find a Skipper who truly cares more about troops and families anywhere. NMCB FOUR is in good hands - and I'm not just saying that because he's my boss!

As the CO mentioned in his article, we also have new Family Support Group leadership. Debbie Dilanni and her team are a fantastic bunch, and have a lot of really great ideas for the families this homeport. Stop by the next FSG meeting, take the opportunity to meet them and check out the fun and interesting activities...I guarantee you won't regret it!

A battalion succeeds or fails because of its people, and our victories this past year are a true testament to that fact. That success deserves recognition, and as you'll see later in this addition, there's plenty to go around. We had 106 advancements this past cycle, including 9 new CPO selectees; gave out 360 deployment awards, many of which are shown in this addition, and had the distinction of being named the "best battalion in the NCF." God bless everyone who worked so hard to make this battalion truly great!

Enjoy our latest installment of the Focus on Four, folks. Until next time, take care and keep chargin'!

Greetings, families of FABULOUS FOUR! Once again we are all united: families, friends, and yes, even the battalion, coming home from around the globe. As expected, we are off to a great and very successful homeport. During homeport we all get to talk about and share stories about our deployment and the activities that went on at home. Of course, we spend much of our homeport tackling the largest block of formal training in our never-ending cycle of business.

We started with the return to homeport picnic put on by our new Family Support Group team. They did a fantastic job bringing the event together for us. The rest of the summer is going fast with most of our kids back in school. Now the dads and moms of the battalion can share the classroom experience with their kids as they continue their training. Our field training is fast approaching and our Seabees will get the chance to apply new skills they have learned.

Homeport always makes for a very busy schedule and we must all manage the balance between family/friends and business so that neither is overlooked. Military families, more than most, have to plan and use the calendar to make the most of the precious time we have. I hope you all continue to make the most of this homeport. Thank you for supporting the command and all for which we stand. We live a life not all can live, and you should be proud of your sacrifices. I know I am.

**Command Master Chief Tom Cyr** 



A thunderstorm is rolling its way across the Colorado mountains and over the plains as I sit down to write this note. My wife and I are here to visit my twin brother, who is home from Iraq on mid-tour leave. We have enjoyed spending the last few days with my family sharing stories and exploring the natural beauty of our fair state.

The week I've spent away from work has enabled me to step back and breathe. Too often I get caught up in the day-to-day workings of battalion life and lose sight of our larger purpose. Surrounded by family in my home state I have regained my vision. I build and I fight because I love my family and my country. I serve because I have been so richly blessed by our nation's ideals of freedom and democracy for all.

In the weeks ahead we will spend many long hours training for our next deployment. It is my hope that we won't get so bogged



down with the details and the planning that we forget why we do what we do. Take time this homeport to strengthen relationships with your friends and family. Take time to enjoy the natural beauty of our country. May we all find a renewed sense of purpose and vision!

Grace and Peace, Chaplain Ott After a successful deployment to Okinawa and a multitude of det sites, the members of Headquarters Company wasted no time in getting the battalion reestablished in Port Hueneme. The redeployment put an extra burden on Headquarters Company personnel, but they met that challenge and skillfully executed its mission.

The Training staff worked with the company training petty officers to put the plan in motion by enrolling the right Seabees in the right classes. Storekeepers worked hard to provide the battalion supplies it needed to operate. Culinary specialists made sure the barracks were ready for occupancy. Personnel specialists ensured that everyone was paid, safely transported all service records during the redeployment and maintained accountability of all personnel. The administration shop kept the battalion rolling forward with its processing an influx of blue folders associated with the redeployment and change of command.

Despite the extra workload for Headquarters personnel through the redeployment and change of command, they maintained quality and excellence in all areas while accomplishing the mission. Thus it comes as no surprise that an "Honor Company" Pennant has joined the PT Pennant atop the Headquarters Company guidon. Headquarters

Company will continue to provide the battalion with enthusiastic support while maintaining the high standards of NMCB FOUR.



NMCB FOUR is back and has hit the ground running. Coming off a rewarding 2005/2006 Okinawa, Japan deployment where accomplishments were at an all time high, we have now returned home to partake in training that makes our future success possible. After a meticulously planned reorganization set up by the Operations Department, the battalion now consists of three Air Detachments: Alfa, Bravo, and Charlie.

With Air Det Alfa's motivated and experienced staff members like UCCM(SCW) Ormanoski and UTCS(SCW) DiIanni, we are setting the homeport standard for training. At the tip of the spear for Air Det Alfa's training are BU1(SCW) Potter and CE1(SCW) Green who work round-the-clock to make sure our company receives the training needed to have a safe and successful deployment, both tactically and professionally.

Training is not the only thing on the minds of our Seabeees. We also know the importance of appreciating family, and eagerly participated in the battalion's Spouse Appreciation and Kids' PT days. With well-rounded and experienced Seabees making up Air Det Alfa, we will press on until our mission is complete.



Air Det Alfa at the Change of Command

Air Det Bravo (ADB) is a highly motivated company within NMCB FOUR. Construction Mechanic Senior Chief Kathy Keith is the Company Chief while Builder Chief James White serves as both the Operations Chief and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Commander, which is comprised of Builders and Steelworkers. Chief Warrant Officer Glenn Richardson leads the Construction Mechanics and Equipment Operators of First Platoon. Third Platoon, made up of Utilitiesmen, Construction Electricians, Headquaters rates and Administration Support Staff, is led by Utilitiesman Chief Alex Gray. Fourth Platoon is the Combat Security Element, which is led by Builder Chief John Scroggs.

In the near term we will accomplish a highly successful training period that will lead into a successful battalion field exercise in Dec 2006. All the training and field exercises accomplished during this Homeport will prepare ADB for our 2007 deployment to Iraq.



Air Det Bravo at the Change of Command

It is an exciting time for Air Det Charlie (ADC). Stood up during the battalion reorganization on July 11<sup>th</sup>, ADC is the battalion's largest company with approximately 200 personnel. Assistant Company Commander LTJG Neil Ebuen and Company Chief CMC(SCW) Thomas Carter help ensure the smooth operation of the company while ENS Robert Valdes leads the Alfa Dogs of First Platoon–all FOUR squads of it! CMC(Sel) Richard Side leads the Second Platoon, comprised primarily of Builders and Steelworkers. MSgt Rickie Bickle leads the Third Platoon, comprised primarily of Builders and Construction Electricians. Last but not least, UTC (SCW) James Deneen leads Fourth Platoon, comprised of Utilitiesmen, Hospital Corpsmen, Engineering Aides, Electronics Technicians and Information Systems Technicians.

ADC's current focus is on training, with many of its personnel in classes all the way through the Technical Training phase of our homeport period. We are planning for an aggressive six weeks of Unit Driven Training that starts in October followed by our field exercise in December – all of which are getting us ready to deploy to Guam in Spring 2006.



Air Det Charlie at the Change of Command



CE3 (SCW) Anthony Oldelk prepares the tracker board for FEX.

Since its creation at the beginning of this homeport, Tango Company has been hard at work in supporting the Battalion's mission by providing excellent technical expertise and superior support, anytime and anywhere. During the 31st Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) change of command, Tango personnel set an outstanding example in military bearing during the pass-in-review. Then, in mid-July, Tango provided valuable support to the Ventura County Stand Down, a community program providing clothing and medical assistance to homeless and poverty stricken veterans in the area. In late July, Tango provided mentors for the Society of American Military Engineers Seabee Camp, giving young adults excellent exposure to the Seabee mission and capabilities. In August, Tango personnel provided valuable trade skills for a Habitat for Humanity project, helping low-income families live the American dream of owning their first home. Other Tango Company troops supported activities include providing embark support for NMCB FIVE, range coaches for the 31st SRG firing range, and assistance for Seabee Construction Basic Training classes. On a daily basis, Tango personnel superbly support the battalion, whether at the MWR store, the Quarterdeck, or in the departments. Tango Company has made many contributions to the battalion and stands ready to complete any future missions assigned with quality and excellence.



CM3 (SCW) Steven Fairchild and UT1 (SCW) Fred Bermea conduct online ORM Training.

### **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion**









**CDR Steve Hamer** 

#### NMCB FOUR's Change of Command

Commander Steve Hamer relieved Commander John Korka as Commanding Officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR in a ceremony July 7, 2006.

Hamer comes to FOUR after serving for two years at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest in San Diego, CA. Korka's next duty is as the Executive Officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Europe in Naples, Italy.

During Korka's two years of command, NMCB FOUR has been an active participant in the Global War on Terrorism. In 2005, the battalion deployed to Iraq, fighting in the Battle of Fallujah and providing critical support during the first Iraqi elections. This year, a detachment from FOUR provided security support as the Navy's first detainee battalion in Iraq. NMCB FOUR has also responded to multiple natural disasters, providing humanitarian aid to the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and to Pakistan after an earthquake devastated the country in 2005. The battalion also recently returned from a successful Pacific deployment that saw its Seabees participating in a variety of international exercises while also carrying out construction projects in eight different countries.

Addressing the battalion, Commander Korka noted that its "CAN DO rally cry has made a difference for our military, Americans and our foreign allies. Regardless of the task or deployment location, you have always remained dedicated to the mission at hand and committed to building on our proud Seabee legacy."

"I am very excited to join the legendary NMCB FOUR team at this place and time in our nation's history," remarked Commander Hamer after taking command of the battalion. "It is my solemn pledge to use every ounce of my energy to lead this great command ably."

## ge of Command

## Naval Mobile Construction Battalion



















Change of Command July 7th, 2006











Page 14

## Post peploymen Post peploymen Picnic MCB FOUR family gathered

The NMCB FOUR family gathered to celebrate a successful deployment during the "Brag on FOUR" picnic, held on Friday, 14 July at Bolles Field. MWR thanks the Family Support Group for its strong support of the event, and HM1 Arnold for the many hours he spent organizing the picnic.

















#### The following people received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

LT Joseph Pepek
ENS Kathryn VanVreede
SWC(SCW) Bryan Bliss
CEC(SCW) Clinton Rainey
BU1(SCW) Charles Carter
HM1(SCW/SW/FMF) Sanket Sadalge
HT1 Peter J. Simonian
EO1(SCW) Lawrence Ziegler
SW2 Eugene Burston
EA2(SCW) Robert Chapman
BU2(SCW/PJ) William Conzo

SW2 Marcus Hesley
HM2 Angela Kennedy
UT2(SCW) Charles Kille
CM2 Sean Meyerhoff
IT2(SCW) Daniel Reyes
Sanket Sadalge
SK2(SCW) Jamie Vilmur
CM2 Teddy Waterman
Ciegler
CE2(SCW) Michael Wilkins
BU3 Kevin Borg
Ipman
BU3 Jacquelyn Daly
Conzo
YN3 Anthony Kunkel
BU3(SCW) Robert May
Odbey
GM3 Ryan Cully
CM3 Jared Stewart
CS3 Guangfeng Zhou

The following people received a Letter of Commendation

BU2(SCW) Andrew Kraus
CM2 Joshlyn Poole
CM2 Cody Rose
CS3 Jomarie Agbayani
EA3(SCW) Joab Cowell
CM3(SCW) Jeremiah Harris
EO3 Michael Johnstone
SW3 Nicholas Owens

CS3 Stephen Spencer

EO2(SCW) Matthew Elliott

EO2(SCW) Michael Godbey

UT2(SCW) Aaron Hernandez

CE3(SCW) Orvelle Taylor
UT3 Joshua Webster
SK3 Joel Williams
BUCN Cristian Diaz-Lopez
EOCN(SCW) Bow Eckenberg
SKSN Timothy Jamar
SKSN Sean Murphy
SKSN(SCW) Jose Paredes
UTCR Tricky Legaspi

#### The following people received Meritorious Masts

LCDR Debra Rogers
LT Joseph M. Pepek
ENS Kathryn VanVreede
CWO4(SCW) Glenn Richardson
CMCS(SCW) Kathy Keith
CM1(SCW) Dawn D. Ayala
BU1(SCW) Joel Jones
BU1 Rufino T. Mananquil
PS2(SCW) Francis Abrea
SK2(SCW) John DeGuzman
SW2 Christopher Phillips
SK2(SW) Samuel S. Richards
CS2(SCW) Albert R. Sanchez
EO2(SCW) Karl H. Tischer

EO3(SCW) Clinton Burch

CE3(SCW) Brittany D. Burkes
UT3 Richard Childs
BU3 Robert Estillete
PC3 Christopher McPherson
SK3(SCW) Jon Miller
SW3(SCW) David Olayo
SW3(SCW) Tamikah Royster
BU3(SCW) Brian Valentine
SKSN Stefanie Askren
C SWCN Justin Keller
CSSN Jennifer Mills
CSSN Tasha Myers
SWCN Ryan Taylor
BUCA Eduardo Nava-Cervantes
EOCR Kenneth Hoffman

Page 18

# Bravo Zulu

#### The following people qualified as Seabee Combat Warfare Specialists

BU1 Ronnie Criss
SK1(SW) Rommel Enriquez
CM1 Robert McDaniels
UT1 Patrick Walsh
CM2 Timothy Bell
BU2 Richard Brown
SK2 Kristoffer Buhain
CE2 Thomas Gardner
SW2 Tony McCall
CM2 Sean Meyerhoff

EO2 Joseph Smith
BU3 Jarryd Andersen
CE3 Brittany D. Burkes
BU3 Kevin Hoeltzel
EO3 Estaban Velasquez
BU3 Charles Yamamoto
CM3 Oscar Zamora
CMCN Lee Hendricks
CMCN Charles Poplin
SWCN Taylor Reed

**CECA Matthew Harmon** 

#### The following warriors added one to their happy family

CM3 David and Cecilia Brown were blessed with Richard Jr. on 4 June. He was 9 lbs 5 oz and 20" long.

UT1 Thomas and Ayako Oberlies were blessed with Catherine on 10 June. She was 8 lbs 1 oz and 21" long.

BU2 Robert and Alicia Summers were blessed with Charlotte on 13 June. She was 6 lbs 15 oz and 21" long.

HM1 David and Nadia Gonzalez were blessed with Nailah on 19 June. She was 8 lbs 12 oz and 22" long.

EOCA Dustin and Maria Foley were blessed with Savannah on 28 June. She was 7 lbs 5 oz and 20.5" long.

BU1 Birthal and Gi Gi Dunigan were blessed with Braden on 3 July. He was 7 lbs 1 oz and 19.5" long.

EA1 Gordon and Julie Schnieder were blessed with Samantha on 6 July. She was 4 lbs 0 oz and 16" long.

CE3 Richard and Jennifer Daniels were blessed with Hunter on 2 August. He was 7 lbs 4 oz and 20" long.

LT Matthew and Kathrine Kuettel were blessed with Emma on 3
August. She was 7 lbs 10 oz and 20" long.

UT2 Lesine Coleman was blessed with Jasyn on 12 August. He was 7 lbs 8 oz and 19.5" long.

#### The following people were promoted to First Class Petty Officer

EO2(SCW) Jose Amador UT1(SCW) William Anderson EO2(SCW) Melody Barnes

HM2(SCW) Paul Gerardo UT2(SCW) Nathan Larose E02(SCW) Lawrence Ziegler

#### The following people were promoted to Second Class Petty Officer

CE3(SCW) Daniel Aguilar UT3(SCW) Michael Aguilar CE3(SCW) Kevin Appleby CM3(SW) David Brown

**BU3 Richard Brown** EO3 Joshua Bulfer

EO3(SCW) Hayden Coleman

BU3 Jacquelyn Daly CE3 Robert Farrell

EO3(SCW) Mario Garcia

CM3(SCW) Chad L. Golden

UT3(SCW) Josue Gonzalez

SW3 Jesse Goodman

PH3(AW/SW) Ronald Gutridge

EO3(SCW) Andrew Hart

BU3(SCW) Michael Hoffman

CE3 Melvin Jackson

YN3 Cameron D. Kay

EO3(SCW) Dmitry Khvatkov

UT3(SCW) Anthony Lucchesi CM3(SCW) Jonathan Martin

CE3 James A. Mason

EO3 Murrary Marshall

BU3(SCW) Robert May

SW3 Tony McCall

UT3(SCW) Scott McGreal

SW3(SCW) David Olayo

EO3(SCW) Mario Perez

CE3 Donald Raymer

BU3(SCW) Tom Roelfs

CM3(SCW) Christopher Sharp

CM3 Travis Smart

CM3 John Soto

CM3 Joseph Stone

BU3(SCW) Telly Townsend

EO3 Michael Urcelay

BU3(SCW) Brian Valentine

EO3 Francis Villareal

CM3(SCW) Oscar Zamora

SW3(SCW) Brandon Zvara





#### The following people were promoted to Third Class Petty Officer

ravo Zuli

CMCN(SCW) Richard Albertson **BUCN Jarryd Anderson BUCN Kevan Aranda** BUCN(SCW) Devin Arndt CMCN Aaron Backlin EACN Anthony Barnd CMCN(SCW) Owen Betts UTCN(SCW) Michael Blair UTCN Tiffany Brown **CECN Brittany Burkes EOCN Joshua Corbine UTCN Cory Cote** UTCN Salvotore Dagostino **BUCN John Davis** CMCN Benjamin Deschepper **BUCN Kevin Devine** CECN Brent Elder CMCN Sloan Farrier EOCN Raffaelo Fiore CECN(SCW) Alejandro Garciamolina BUCN Solomon Sackett SWCN Felipe Gonzales SWCN Sean Gribayedoff CMCN(SCW) Lee Hendricks **EOCN** Michael Ivey **BUCN** Nathan Jewett SWCN Justin Keller

CECN(SCW) Andrew Lamp

**BUCN Grant Lewis EOCN Christopher Lindsey CECN** Timothy Linn **BUCN** Zachary Lodes **EOCN Nathan Luetjen** UTCN Juan Martinez **CECN** Jose Medina BUCN(SCW) Mario Molina CECN Glen Murphy CSSN Tasha Myers SWCN Joshua Nenortas **BUCN(SCW)** Christine Nowak CECN(SCW) Anthony Oldelk **SWCN** Nicholas Owens **EOCN Brandon Park** CECN Gabriel Pena CMCN(SCW) Charles Poplin CECN James Pyle BUCN Anthony Reeder UTCN Eric Schiffman **BUCN(SCW)** Ronald Showers SWCN Arnoldo Sotorivas EPCN Jacob Stahl CMCN Eric Stricker CSSN Curtis Walker **BUCN Charles Yamamoto** 

**EOCN Trevor Williams** 



SEABEES